

March 29, 1960

Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr.  
Virus Laboratory  
Department of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Francis:

Thank you for your letter of the 21st. We appreciate your interest and look forward to your more active support.

I personally agree with you fully about the demurrer. In fact, I thought I had said the same thing on page 24 in referring to "diseases whose involvement of man is a biological accident, e.g. psittacosis, botulism, aspergillosis." However, Norm Horowitz, who does also represent a minority view, felt so strongly about the issue that it seemed wiser at this stage to indicate some pros and cons rather than to achieve a settled conclusion.

If you have time to prepare it, a thoughtful critique from you concerning the reports that have already been submitted would be a most valuable contribution. I'm sure that this would be read with interest and appreciation by the Space Science Board, by the Biology Committee, and by Dr. Clark Randt, who is the new director for the office of Life Sciences in NASA. Randt was, by the way, privately quite receptive to the sense of the resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics